

# Holy Trinity Orthodox Church



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[www.holytrinitydanbury.org](http://www.holytrinitydanbury.org)

<https://www.facebook.com/htocdanbury/?fref=hovercard>

Diocesan Website: [www.acrod.org](http://www.acrod.org)

Camp Nazareth:  
<http://www.campnazareth.org>

Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/acroddiocese>

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/acrodnews>

You Tube:

<https://youtube.com/acroddiocese>

Recommended Orthodox Internet  
Ministries

<http://myocn.net/>

<http://www.ancientfaith.com/>

## Welcome to Holy Trinity Parish

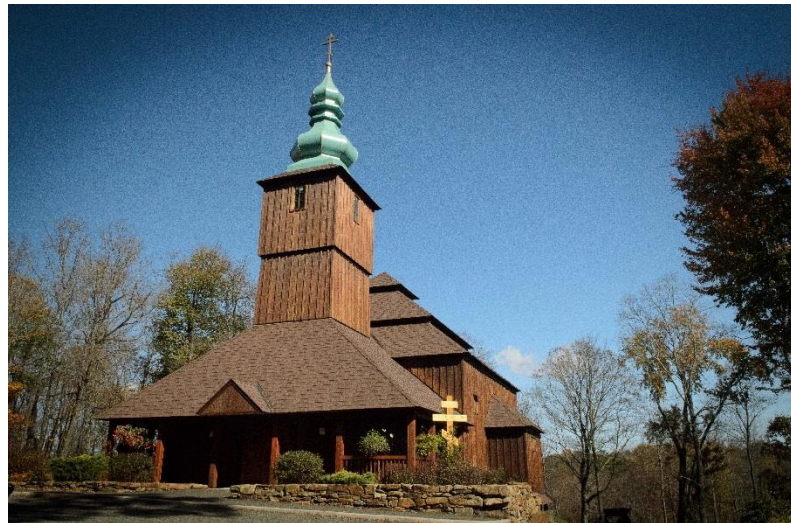
Today is the Sunday of the Forefathers. The Epistle Colossians 3:4-11. The Gospel is from Luke 14:16-24. Prophet Daniel and the 3 Youths.

Holy Trinity is a diverse and welcoming parish of the Carpatho Russian Diocese, under the Ecumenical Patriarchate.

His Grace, Bishop Gregory of Nyssa, is our diocesan ruling hierarch.

Divine Liturgy is offered Sunday at 10 am. As reminder only those Orthodox Christians who are properly prepared are invited to receive Holy Communion.

Everyone is invited downstairs following Divine Liturgy for Coffee Hour and Fellowship.



Come down and meet Fr. Luke and the parishioners.

Our parish offers many opportunities to pray, to study and learn more about Jesus Christ and His Holy Orthodox Church.

If you have any questions about the Orthodox Church,

our Faith, or our parish please feel free to contact Fr. Luke. He is more than happy to meet with you and talk.

## Schedule of Services and Events for this week

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**Sunday, December 17, 10 AM**  
– Divine Liturgy - Sunday of Forefathers

**Monday, December 18, 7 PM**  
– Spirituality Class

**Tuesday, December 19, 8:30 AM**  
– Third Hour

**Wednesday, December 20, 7 PM**  
– Catechism Class

**Thursday, December 21, 9 AM**  
– Prayer Class

**Thursday, December 21, 7 PM**  
– Anointing service to St. Nectarios

**Friday, December 22, 9 AM**  
– Royal Hours

**Friday, December 22, 10 AM**  
– Old Testament Class

**Friday, December 23, 5:30 PM to 7:30 PM**  
– Church School

**Saturday, December 23, 1 PM**  
– Akathist of the Inexhaustible Cup

**Saturday, December 23, 5 PM**  
– Vespers

**Sunday, December 24, 10 AM**  
– Divine Liturgy

**Sunday, December 24, 5PM**  
– Holy Supper (covered dish) - Strict Fast (No meat, dairy or alcohol)

**Sunday, December 24, 7 PM**  
– Christmas Eve Services and the singing of Christmas Carols

**Monday, December 25, 10 AM**  
– Divine Liturgy of St. Basil – **Nativity of our Lord and Savior Jesus – No Fasting from December 25, Nativity of Christ until January 5 the Eve of Theophany**

**Tuesday, December 26, 9 AM**  
– Divine Liturgy Christ – Synaxis of the Mother of God

**Wednesday, December 27, 9 AM**  
– Divine Liturgy - Feast of St. Stephen

## Readers Schedule

12/17 – Paul Sulich  
12/24 – Susan Paltauf  
12/31 – Harry Fong

## Coffee Hour

12/17 – OPEN  
12/24 - OPEN

## Help restock our Kitchen: decaf coffee.

Please remember to sign up and subscribing on our parish web site [www.holytrinitydanbury.org](http://www.holytrinitydanbury.org)

And to those with a Facebook accounts please like our Facebook page posts associated with the fundraising events here <https://www.facebook.com/htocdanbury/?fref=hovercard> so the word gets out.

**Coffee Hour** - We need people to sign up for coffee hour. As a reminder, coffee hour need not be elaborate. Bagels or rolls and butter are fine or anything simple. Consider signing up with someone else to make it easier.

**Mary Kay Open House to Benefit OYMT**—the holiday Mary Kay sale to benefit OYMT will continue today during coffee hour. Please check out the great variety of beautifully wrapped gifts for everyone on your list. Your generous support is greatly appreciated!

## Alcoholism and Addiction

The **Akathist Service to the Icon of the Inexhaustible Cup** has proven to be a great help to all those who know someone or who themselves are struggling with alcoholism and addiction. We at Holy Trinity have quietly started serving the Akathist to the Icon of the Mother of God of the Inexhaustible Cup. If you are interested in attending the service please see Fr. Luke. This service is open to all parishioners. Saturday, December 23 at 1 PM.

## New Rectory

Great progress is being made in the building of the **new rectory**. We have passed the permitting stage and the old rental property will be demolished within the next couple of weeks. The new rectory is already in production with Westchester Modular and could be set on the property as early as the end of December. Only \$50,000 remains to be raised to complete the rectory. If donations come in to cover the final amount we will not need to use the line of credit to finish the project. Stay tuned for updates and if you haven't already done so, subscribe to our website: [www.holytrinitydanbury.org](http://www.holytrinitydanbury.org) to see construction photos and updates..

## Church School

**Church School**—Our next school will be Saturday, Dec. 16<sup>th</sup>. We have had an excellent response to the classes and the children and teens have been great. Be sure to take a look at the artwork and what the youth have to say about it on the stairs down to the hall. Class schedule for the rest of the year is as follows: Fri. 12/22. Friday classes will be from 5:30-7:30 p.m. Please mark this date on your calendar. Children and teens will continue to learn about the Old Testament. There will be art activities, service projects and fun! Please let Roz Mihaylo ([rozmihaylo@hotmail.com](mailto:rozmihaylo@hotmail.com)) know if your child will attend so that we can plan accordingly for art project supplies, etc.

## OYMT 2018

**Orthodox Youth Mission Team 2018**— If you have not given Susan Sulich your paperwork and deposit please bring to the meeting. We have the largest group ever going from our parish and we welcome all our new team members. It is not too late to sign up. The trip is scheduled for July 7-16<sup>th</sup> and training sessions will begin in January. If you have questions about OYMT see Fr. Luke or Susan Sulich.

## Preschool Church School

**Preschool Church School** – We will be having a church school class for our preschoolers led by Stasia Thompson on Dec. 16<sup>th</sup> and the time to 10:00 to 11:00 (during the first hour of our older youth class). If your preschooler will attend, please let Stasia know by phone: 203-837-6248.

## Parish Christmas Card

**Parish Christmas Card:** We will once again be printing a Christmas card to send out from our parish. List will be circulating at coffee hour. Please make sure your or your family's name is listed as you wish. Donations for printing and postage are greatly appreciated (\$20 suggested donation). Today is the last day to get your name on the card. If anyone will not be there today and wants to be on the card please email your or your family's name as you wish it to appear to Susan Sulich at [ssulich@yahoo.com](mailto:ssulich@yahoo.com).

## Prayer Group

**Prayer Group**--Our prayer group class meets on Thursday mornings at 9:00 a.m. This week we will be starting a new book: Churchianity vs. Christianity by Met. Anthony Bloom. All our welcome!

Support OYMT | Advent Collection for Dorothy Day | Christmas Decorations and Tree

**Help Support the Orthodox Youth Mission Team**—OYMT has made soup mix and hot cocoa jars that are beautifully packaged and ready for holiday gift giving. Jars are for sale in the hall. The cost is \$8. Please help our youth fund their ASP trip this summer. Thank you for your ongoing support!

**Advent Collection for Dorothy Day**—We will be collecting new hats, gloves and socks for men, women and children to donate to Dorothy Day throughout the Advent season. All items can be left in the box at the back of the church. Hats, gloves and socks are in high demand and greatly appreciated during the winter months. We will plan to bring all donated items to the soup kitchen when we serve there on Friday January 5<sup>th</sup>.

**Thanks to Stella and Bill Woodfield and Paul Sulich**—Thanks is extended to Bill and Stella Woodfield who have quietly been decorating our parish for Christmas. It is truly a work of beauty. Also a big Thank you to Paul Sulich who went out and got our parish Christmas tree this Saturday. He had help from Harry Fong to set the tree up in the church. Thanks Paul and Harry.

## Birthdays

December	
Chrissanth Gross	22
Alex Sirak	22
Marty Howley	26
Elaine Toaso	30

As we once again enter the Season of the **Nativity Fast**, Bishop Gregory asks you, actually pleads with you, the good faithful people of our Diocese, to join him on a journey to meet the new born King. During these 40 days leading to the Nativity of our Lord let us increase our efforts in church attendance, in prayer, in fasting, in scriptural reading, in almsgiving, in repentance and confession, in receiving the Eucharist.

This year, just like the last two years, **he is challenging everyone, clergy and laity, to offer a special prayer for peace during evening prayers.** During the Litany of Fervent Supplication at each Divine Liturgy a special petition is also to be included. The text of these prayers will be provided to the Clergy for distribution. Each household should have sufficient copies so that each young person that can read has one by their bed to use nightly and those who are too young to read may say the prayer with their parents before they go to bed.

## Upcoming Events

- Monthly St. Nectarios Service**—Thursday Dec. 21<sup>st</sup> 7:00 p.m.
- Church School**—Dec. 22<sup>nd</sup> 5:30-7:30 p.m.
- Akathist to the Icon of the Inexhaustible Cup**—Saturday Dec. 23<sup>rd</sup> 1:00 p.m.
- Charitable Coffee Hour to Benefit OCMC**—Sunday Dec. 31<sup>st</sup>
- Dorothy Day**—Friday Jan. 5<sup>th</sup> 1:00-5:00 p.m.
- New Year's Dinner Dance**—Saturday, January 13<sup>th</sup>
- Monthly St. Nectarios Service**—Thursday, Jan. 18<sup>th</sup> 7:00 p.m.
- Annual Parish Meeting**—Sunday, Jan. 21<sup>st</sup> following liturgy
- OYMT Training Session**—Sunday, Jan. 21<sup>st</sup> 3:00-5:00 (Adult leaders 5:00-6:00)

## Trip to Slovakia

**Trip to Slovakia**—We are working to put together a parish trip to Slovakia for August 2018. We have been in contact with Fr. Ilya Gotlinsky who did an excellent job planning and making arrangements for our trip to Greece and Macedonia. Please let Fr. Luke know as soon as possible if you plan to go on the trip.

**Holy Trinity Orthodox Church**  
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Danbury, CT 06811

“... a place of refuge full of love and joy.”



**Donations**—Going forward we would like to institute a new policy regarding donations of items to the church. While we are very grateful that parishioners want to offer the church items that might be useful, we have a limited amount of space. As we try to reorganize the hall and maximize the storage space that we have available we ask you to go through our new Donations Coordinator, Elaine Toaso, if you wish to donate something to the church. Please speak to Elaine ([elaine.toaso@gmail.com](mailto:elaine.toaso@gmail.com)) before bringing any items in and she will be able to tell you (or find out from the parish council) if the items can be utilized. Thank you!

**New Year's Dinner Dance**—Plans are underway for our annual New Year's Dinner Dance. It will take place on Saturday, January 13<sup>th</sup> and tickets will be \$35 per person which will include dinner (BYOB) and music and entertainment by our favorite DJ, Bill Lopez. Invite your friends and plan to come and enjoy the evening. To reserve tickets or a table of 8 or 10, see Pani Bethany or Susan Sulich.

We're on the Web!

[holytrinitydanbury.org](http://holytrinitydanbury.org)

The Diocesan Chancery is pleased to announce that registration is now open for the **2018 CrossRoad** program. CrossRoad is a ten-day academic summer institute that prepares high school juniors and seniors to make big life decisions and invites them to connect with the Orthodox Christian theological and spiritual tradition. Participants from all over the country come together to experience daily worship, take theology classes from some of the best professors in the country, visit local parishes, serve their neighbor, tour the city, and even spend a day at the beach. Historically, CrossRoad has been hosted solely on the campus of Hellenic College Holy Cross. This year, we are excited to announce that CrossRoad is expanding to Chicago! This summer, there will be a third session offered on the campus of North Park University in Chicago, IL.

CrossRoad Chicago is the same program, run by the same staff, in a brand new location! The sessions are as follows: Session 1 - June 16 – June 26 (Boston) Session 2 July 2 – July 12 (Boston) Session 3 - July 21 – July 31 (Chicago)

Scholarships covering the registration and tuition fee will be available to our Diocesan students who apply and are accepted to any one of the three sessions.

Diocesan Students interested in attending are asked to apply to the program before the February 1, 2018 Deadline. Upon acceptance, students are kindly asked to contact Fr. Stephen Lopusky, Diocesan Director of Youth at [campnazareth@acrod.org](mailto:campnazareth@acrod.org) or 724-662-4840.

### For the Children

**Do you have any friends or relatives who live far away from you?** Do you visit sometimes or talk on the phone? Maybe you wish they lived closer to you so you could be together more!

In the Gospel reading today, we hear how our Lord also wants His friends to be with Him! We read how a man throws a big party, and He invites lots of people. The problem is that nobody comes to it! They all give excuses. They all say they are busy with something else. But the man still wants to have his party, so he invites even more people. He tells his servant, “Go out to the highways and hedges, and compel people to come in, that my house may be filled.” The master (Who is really God) wants His friends to be close to Him. He wants His house to be filled!

So, just as we might miss our friends or family when they live far away from us, our loving Lord misses His children too. He wants us to help Him, too. We can be like the servant in the Gospel story today, inviting other people to be close to the Master too. Sometimes we can invite people with words. But we can always try to be good Christian examples so others will want to know more about our Lord. Remember, God wants *all* of His children to be close to Him!

### DANIEL AND THE 3 HOLY YOUTHS: FAITH—NO MATTER WHAT!

Have you ever traded something you had for something you wanted? Did you trade a toy that you had for a toy a friend had? You give something, and you get something.

Sometimes we might think we can trade something with God too. We might think that if we pray a lot, or we do something for Him, God will always give us what we want. Maybe we think we can trade what we do for something that God does. But that's not how it works, is it? God is ready to help us, but He does what He wants, when He wants, and how He wants.

Today we remember Daniel and the Holy Youths. Do you remember hearing about them during Holy Week? They are the boys who were supposed to bow down and worship the idol of the king. But they only worshipped God! Why should they worship the idol of the king? When they refused, they were thrown into the super-hot fire.

If you read the story from the Old Testament, you'll find that these boys never made a deal with God. They never said, “We'll pray, and you'll save us.” They never told the king that God would save them from the fire. But they knew they only worshipped God. They had faith in God—no matter what!

We celebrate the nameday of these saints today, Dec. 17th (Dec. 30th, OC).